

REMARKS:

The Examiner has objected to claims 3, 8 and 12-17 on the basis of certain informalities. The Examiner has suggested that claim 3 be amended by changing "formula (2) wherein n represents the integer 1 or the integer 2 wherein R* represents a hydrogen atom wherein Y represents an oxygen atom wherein Z represents the moiety C(R)R'" to "formula (2) wherein n represents the integer 1 or the integer 2; R* represents a hydrogen atom; Y represents an oxygen atom; and Z represents the moiety C(R)R'." The Examiner has also suggested that in claim 8, "wherein m in equal" be changed to "wherein m is equal." The Examiner has further suggested that claims 12-17 be amended by changing "wherein at least one of the members selected from the group consisting of R, R', and R" is a hydroxyl groups" be changed to "wherein at least one of R, R', and R" is a hydroxyl group." These changes have been made.

Claims 2, 3 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the applicants regard as the invention. Claim 2 has been canceled and therefore the rejection of claim 2 has been rendered moot. Regarding claim 3, the Examiner made the rejection on the basis that in Formula 4 in claim 3 when Y is C(R)R', the monomer represented by Formula 4 is not a silyl-acetal compound and is different from the compounds represented by Formula 1-3 because the acetal is defined as RO-C(R)₂-OR. The basis of this rejection has been rendered moot because Formula 4 has been eliminated from claim 3 (redrafted as new claim 21). Claim 3 has been redrafted in this manner as new claim 21 (so as to avoid confusion that could result from the brackets contained in the structural formulas provided in claim 3). Claim 13 has been amended by deleting the symbol "R".

The Examiner has indicated that claims 4-6 and 8-20 are allowable over the teachings of what he has determined to be the closest prior art references. These references include Ender (United States Patent 3,287,291), Nakamura et al (United States Patent 5,973,067), and Britton (United States Patent 5,618,951). However, claims 1 and 2 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ender and Nakamura. Claims 1 and 2 have accordingly been canceled therefore rendering moot the rejections of these claims.

Claim 7 has been canceled and claim 3 has been amended to eliminate the compositions of Formula 4. Thus, claim 7 is now limited to the compositions called for in allowed claims 4, 5, and 6 (Formulas 1, 2 and 3).

It is believed that the amendments made herein overcome the rejections made under 35 U.S.C. §102 and 35 U.S.C. §112 as well as the Examiner's objections. It is accordingly believed that the subject patent application is now in a condition for allowance and such an allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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